GUIDE TO THE EG1 ALBANIA FILE

[This file is concerned with the people and culture of twentieth-century Albania, including the Ghegs in the North and the Toscs in the South. Albania (the People's Republic of Albania, called Shqiperia by the Albanians) has been a national state since 1912, and has been under Communist control since 1944; and since 1961, has been rigidly aligned with Communist China. The economy today is government controlled. The lack of accessible resources, arable land, and trained work force make for slow growth. Agricultural production is low because of the lack of arable land and inefficient methods. Cereal crops for domestic use and exportable items, such as tobacco, fruits, and vegetables are the most important crops. Organized religion was destroyed by government action in 1967, but for the period covered by most of the sources in the file, the population was approximately 70% Muslim, 20% Eastern Orthodox and 10% Roman Catholic.

There are nine sources in the Albania file, numbered 2-4 and 6-11. All of them are in English. The major sources are 2: Durham, by a well-known folklorist, which contains materials on tribal groupings, law and blood feuds, rites of passage, sorcery and witchcraft, and medical beliefs; 8: Coon, by an American physical anthropologist, which contains a great deal of anthropometric and biological data on the Ghegs of Northern Albania, as well as general ethnographic information, and 10: Hasluck, by a foreign resident, which is concerned primarily with the tribal laws and legal procedures of the northern highlanders, but which contains a considerable amount of other data as well. Other sources in the file are 3: Redlich, a popular account which provides general

information on the Albanian kingdom up to 1936; 4: Garnett, by a folklorist, which is a compendium of information on the role of Albanian women; 6: Lane, a travel account which contains a good deal of superficial ethnographic data; 7: Amery, by a British intelligence agent, which describes guerrilla warfare in World War II; 9: Albania, which is the 1946 Constitution of the People's Republic of Albania, and 11: United States, which is a concise statement on the administrative reorganization which occurred in 1953. Most of the materials in the file are concerned with the northern highlanders of Albania during the period 1910-1940. In addition, much of the material is quite superficial, which is not surprising considering the difficulties of obtaining information in this country during this century. The file is useful for some types of comparative research, but considerable caution should be exercised in using the materials, because the reliability of much of it is unknown. Probably the most reliable are the data of Hasluck, Durham and Coon. The file was processed between 1955 and 1962.]